

UKMTO Weekly Report

21 March to 27 March 2021

Command Overview

- 1. SAVE THE DATE Thursday 10 June:** We have secured a provisional date for the next MIEVOM - Maritime Information Exchange Vessel Operators' Meeting. More details to follow nearer the time.
2. Photograph on the right shows presentation of a UKMTO mug to Lt Cdr Andrew 'Bruce' McLaughlin RAN, our Australian Liaison officer who left last week.
3. We are closely monitoring the situation in the Suez Canal, media stories a. to d. refer. Company security officers or shipping industry representatives who would like to discuss the impact of this on their operations please get in touch with me on Dubai-oic@ukmto.org or via phone +971 50189 8389.



Lt Cdr McLaughlin RAN & Lt Cdr Sam Yee RN

Warnings, Advisories and Notices

Details of all UKMTO Warnings, Advisories and Notices released this week or that remain in force can be found below.

Warnings		
No Warnings issued this week.		
Advisories		
.002/MAR/2021	Suspicious Approach	North of Mina Saqr
Notices		
Number	Category	Remarks/Cancellation Date
008/FEB/2021	Transiting the Strait of Hormuz	In force until further notice
010/FEB/2021	UKMTO (Dubai) Vessel Briefings	In force until further notice
017/FEB/2021	Military Exercise	311800UTC MAR 2021
003/MAR/2021	Air Defence Firing Exercise	<i>Superseding Notice</i> 001/MAR/2021 301900UTC MAR 2021
006/MAR/2021	Military Exercise	Cancelled 261100UTC MAR 2021

For information or queries regarding UKMTO Warnings, Advisories or Notices call: 0044 2392 222060. This information is provided to inform maritime situational awareness for mariners operating in the region. UKMTO is not responsible for the accuracy of this reporting.



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Advisories

ADVISORY NOTICE 002/MAR/2021

1. **Category:** Suspicious Approach
2. **Description:** Vessel reported being approached at 220900MAR21 (UTC) in position 2620N 05601E (21NM North of MINA SAQR) by a small grey boat with 3 POB wearing masks. Vessel and crew are SAFE.
3. **Source:** Master.

Any queries regarding this Advisory Notice ring 0044 2392 222060 only for further information.



Mariners are advised to exercise extreme caution when transiting this area

THIS ADVISORY is not classified as a Maritime Security Event and has not been verified by UKMTO. This information is provided to inform maritime situational awareness for mariners operating in the region. UKMTO is not responsible for the accuracy of this reporting.

Notices

UKMTO NOTICE 008/FEB/2021

1. UKMTO is issuing this Notice to global maritime operators in order to remind mariners and ship operators of the recommended procedures for transiting the Strait of Hormuz.

BMP5 remains the basis for merchant ship conduct, reporting and monitoring in the area. In addition vessels and companies will need to be aware of their own Flag State guidance. All vessels are strongly advised to remain within International Waters and, where practicable, should avoid transiting through Iranian TTW, including the areas claimed by Iran around the islands of:

- Abu Musa 25° 52'N 55° 02'E
- Greater Tunb 26° 15'N 55° 16'E
- Lesser Tunb 26° 14'N 55° 08'E

In the event of merchant vessels being hailed masters should respond with ship's name, flag state and confirm that they are proceeding in accordance with International Law. If contacted by Iranian authorities, it is recommended that masters contact UKMTO.

UKMTO recommends all merchant shipping maintain transmissions on AIS throughout the region to avoid mis-identification and to assist with merchant shipping monitoring.

2. Any queries regarding this UKMTO Notice ring 0044 2392 222060 only for further information.



NOTICES

UKMTO NOTICE 010/FEB/2021

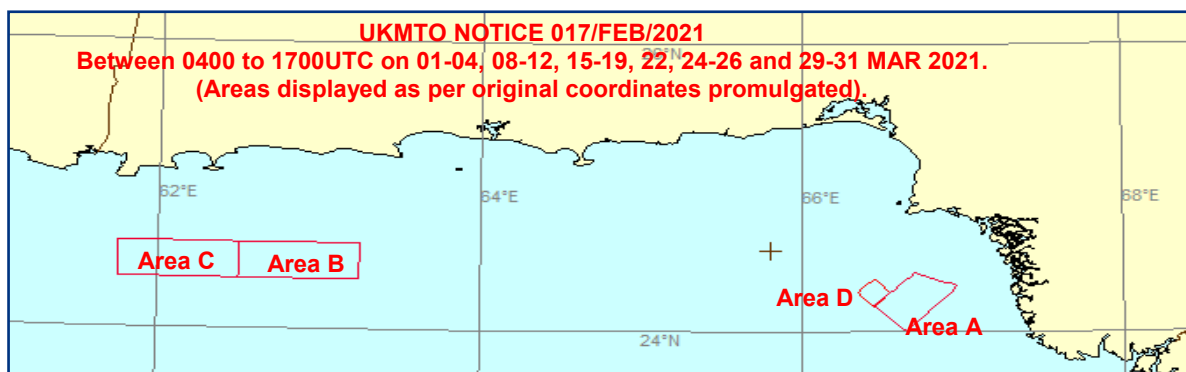
- 1. Category:** UKMTO (Dubai) Vessel Briefings
- 2. Description:** Industry can be reassured that UKMTO (Dubai) remains fully operational during the COVID-19 global pandemic. However, due to the current increase in UAE COVID-19 restrictions we have temporarily paused our face-to-face briefs.

Commercial shipping companies and ship's masters are still able to receive the latest UKMTO Maritime Security updates and briefs via telephone, teleconference (Zoom) or by e-mail using the following contact details contained within the Maritime Security Chart (Q6099) and/or directly from Dubai-OiC@ukmto.org +971 43094268/4462

3. A further Notice will be issued when normal service is resumed

UKMTO NOTICE 017/FEB/2021

- 1. Category:** Military Exercise
- 2. Description:** Naval ships will carry out surface, anti-aircraft and depth charge live firing practice between 0400 to 1700 UTC from 01-05, 08-12, 15-19, 22, 24-26 and 29-31 Mar 2021 in following areas:
 - A. 24-19.00N 066-58.00E 24-00.00N 066-39.00E
24-11.00N 066-27.00E 24-24.30N 066-42.00E
 - B. 24-36.02N 063-15.03E 24-36.02N 062-30.03E
24-21.02N 063-15.03E 24-21.02N 062-30.03E
 - C. 24-36.02N 062-30.03E 24-36.02N 061-45.03E
24-21.02N 062-30.03E 24-21.02N 061-45.03E
 - D. DEPTH CHARGE FIRING AREA
24-16.18N 066-20.50E 24-22.00N 066-27.00E
24-16.30N 066-33.00E 24-10.30N 066-27.00E
3. Ships and Craft are to keep well clear of assigned danger areas on above specified schedule. All vessels in the vicinity are to stay vigilant and to report any incidents to UKMTO. All vessels are



VESSELS ARE ADVISED TO EXERCISE CAUTION WHEN TRANSITING THE AREA

4. **Source:** [Pakistan Navy Hydrographer 074/21](#)
5. Any queries regarding this UKMTO Notice ring 0044 2392 222060 only for further information.

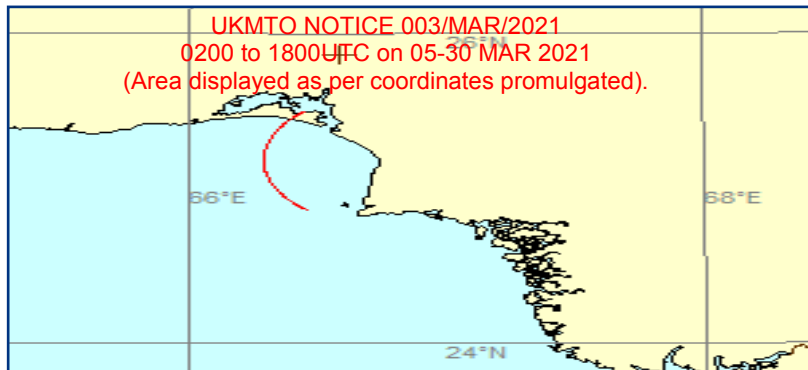


UKMTO NOTICE 003/MAR/2021

1. **Category:** Air Defence Firing Exercise

2. **Description:** Firing practice with live ammunition by air defence units will be carried out from 05 - 30 March 2021 between 0200 - 1800UTC in area bounded by an arc of radius 8 NM centred at position 2511N 06645E between 220 to 310 degrees clockwise.

3. Ships and Craft are to keep well clear of assigned danger area on above specified schedule. All vessels in the vicinity are to stay vigilant and to report any incidents to UKMTO. All vessels are requested to inform UKMTO if any interference is noted on Radios/Radars/GPS.



VESSELS ARE ADVISED TO EXERCISE CAUTION WHEN TRANSITING THE AREA

4. **Source:** [Pakistan Navy Hydrographer 097/21](#)

5. Any queries regarding this UKMTO Notice ring 0044 2392 222060 only for further information

Maritime Security Briefing

Date	Location	Vessel
Face to face briefings are currently paused due to Covid		

Future Events

Date	Event	Location
3 Jun 2021	SHADE	Bahrain
10 Jun 2021	MIEVOM	Dubai

Liaisons and Visits

No visits took place this week.

If anyone wishes to contact our Dubai office, arrange a visit or request a briefing on Maritime Security via the telephone, please contact Lt Cdr Sam Yee by telephone: +971 (0)501898389 or email: dubai-oic@ukmto.org



Open Source Media Articles

UKMTO is not responsible for the accuracy of these open source media articles of interest.

- a. 27 Mar 21 - Cheniere and Shell Oil Tankers Change Course to Avoid Suez Canal as Ships Divert Routes (NBCDFW): <https://bit.ly/39oAsHv>
- b. 27 Mar 21 - Fears over pirate attacks grow for ships detouring from Suez Canal through dangerous African waters (9news): <https://bit.ly/3soHZqO>
- c. 27 Mar 21 - UPDATED: Suez Canal Steps Up Efforts Refloat Grounded Ever Given (Reuters): <https://bit.ly/2P3wuNB>
- d. 26 May 21 - Why the Suez Canal and other choke-points face growing pressure (Economist): <https://econ.st/2NVXIKG>
- e. 23 Mar 21 - Pakistan chief of Naval Staff visits CMF Headquarters (CMF): <https://bit.ly/3fp3yKu>
- f. 23 Mar 21 - EU NAVFOR Somalia bids farewell to the 36th Rotation of its force Headquarters (EUNAVFOR): <https://bit.ly/3ft1MYG>
- g. 22 Mar 21 - HMS MONTROSE seizes third drugs haul in five weeks (CMF): <https://bit.ly/2PBwNie>
- h. 6 Mar 21 - The retired British Colonel who rescued 41 hostages kidnapped by Somali pirates (Telegraph): <https://bit.ly/3lXE1t7>

Bridge cards

- IMSC Bridge Cards - produced by the International Maritime Security Construct (IMSC) for use on board vessels transiting the Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden and Red Sea region and intended to complement BMP 5 and existing Industry guidance. <https://bit.ly/37c34Cs>
- OCIMF Bridge Cards - produced by the Oil Companies Maritime Forum (OCIMF) for use on board vessels transiting the Gulf of Guinea region and intended to complement BMP West Africa and existing Industry guidance. <http://bit.ly/37aIUZG>

Additional sources of Information

www.ukmto.org

[MSCHOA](#)

[Combined Maritime Forces \(CMF\)](#)

[United Kingdom Hydrographic Office](#)

[IMB Live Piracy Reports](#)

www.marad.dot.gov/MSCI

[NATO Maritime Command \(MARCOM\)](#)

www.maritimeglobalsecurity.org

[Middle East Navigation Aids Service \(MENAS\)](#)



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